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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/721,386

11/25/2003

William Y. Pong

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EXAMINER

CHARLES, MARCUS

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3682

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

01/28/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/721,386

Applicant(s)

PONG, WILLIAM Y.

Examiner

Marcus Charles

Art Unit

3682

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 October 2007 and 30 August 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-10,12-21 and 23-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 7,9,17-20,26 and 28-32 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-6,8,10,12-15,17,21,23-25 and 27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 November 2003 and 17 April 2007 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This action is responsive to the RCE filed 10-05-2007, which has been entered. Claims 1, 3-10, 12-21 and 23-32 are currently.

Request for Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for Request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/05/2007 has been entered.

Election/Restrictions

2. Applicant's election with traverse of fig. 5 in the telephone interview on 12-13-2007 is acknowledged. The election was made to correct the election made on 11/03/2006. The response to the traversal can be found in the office action filed 01-24-2004. Claims 8-9, 17-20 and 27-32 stand withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

In addition, claims 7, 16 and 26 have been withdrawn by the examiner because they do not read on the elected species (fig. 5). Claims 8, 17 and 27 have been rejoined because they read on the elected species fig. 5.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "15" has been used to designate both the frame and the pivot. It appears that the reference "15" should be --16--. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

4. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: the reference "15" depicting the frame should be --16--. See drawing objection. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 3, 5, 12 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 3, recited a freely pivoting connection

between the motor plate and the frame. However, it is not clear as to how the connection can be freely pivoting when there is a biasing element (M_{biasing}) between the plate and the frame.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 10, 12-15, 17, 21, 23-25 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Stickers (4,165,466). In claims 1, 10 and 21, Stickers discloses a belt drive system comprising a first and second pulleys (20, 24), a belt (33) reeved over the first and second pulleys; the first pulley (30) is loaded away from the second pulley by a biasing load produce by a first biasing mechanism (34) tensioning the first pulley away from the second pulley in a pivoting fashion about a pivot (16). It is apparent that the pivot is located with a reference centerline between the first and second pulleys and it is also apparent that the application of torque or the motive power from the motor of the first pulley in a first direction will elevate belt tension and torque or motive power in the second direction with decrease the belt tension. In claim 3 and 12, note the pulley (30) is mounted on a drive motor (20), which is attached to a motor plate (55), the motor plate (55) on which the motor is mounted is pivotally attached to a frame member (12/35) via a pivoting connection (45) between the motor plate and the frame.

In claims 4 and 13, note the second pulley is attached to a wheel drum (14).

In claims 5 and 14, as understood, it is apparent that the motor plate is biased away from the second pulley by the biasing mechanism (34).

In claims 6, 15 and 25, note the biasing mechanism comprises a spring (53A) and generates a biasing moment about the pivot (45).

In claims 8, 17 and 27, Hutchison inherently discloses the claimed invention, including the biasing mechanism is a torsional spring mounted about the pivot.

In claim 10, Hutchison clearly discloses the claimed invention above.


In claim 21 and 23-24, Hutchison discloses the claimed invention above.

Citation

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Note the prior art cited in attached PTO Form 892.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marcus Charles whose telephone number is (571) 272-7101. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:30 am to 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ridley Richard can be reached on (571) 272-6917. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.


Marcus Charles
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3682
December 14, 2007